

H.C. Burleigh Papers

Savage

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QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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FILE	

John C. Clark Diary

Savage

1832

Feb 20

Mr. John Savage and Miss Eliza McAuley married



Story of Captain John Savage

One of the U. E. Loyalists who came to what is now the Province of Ontario by the Lake Champlain route, told by Mary O. Vaudry M. A. (McGill) one of his descendants.

John Savage Sr., the subject of this sketch, was born in 1740, and came of a wealthy and influential family in the North of Ireland. With his brothers James and Edward he settled near New Concord and Spencertown, not far from the Hudson River, in the State of New York. This part of the country had been settled only a few years previous by immigrants from the New England States although a few Hollanders had visited the vicinity about the year 1700.

One of the saddest aspects of the Revolution was the division in families; parents and children ranged against each other as the tide of feeling rose higher and higher, brother fighting against brother in bitter warfare. The Pratts all favoured the Revolutionists with the exception of two sisters, Ann, who married Captain Savage, and Lydia, the wife of Roswell Spaulding.

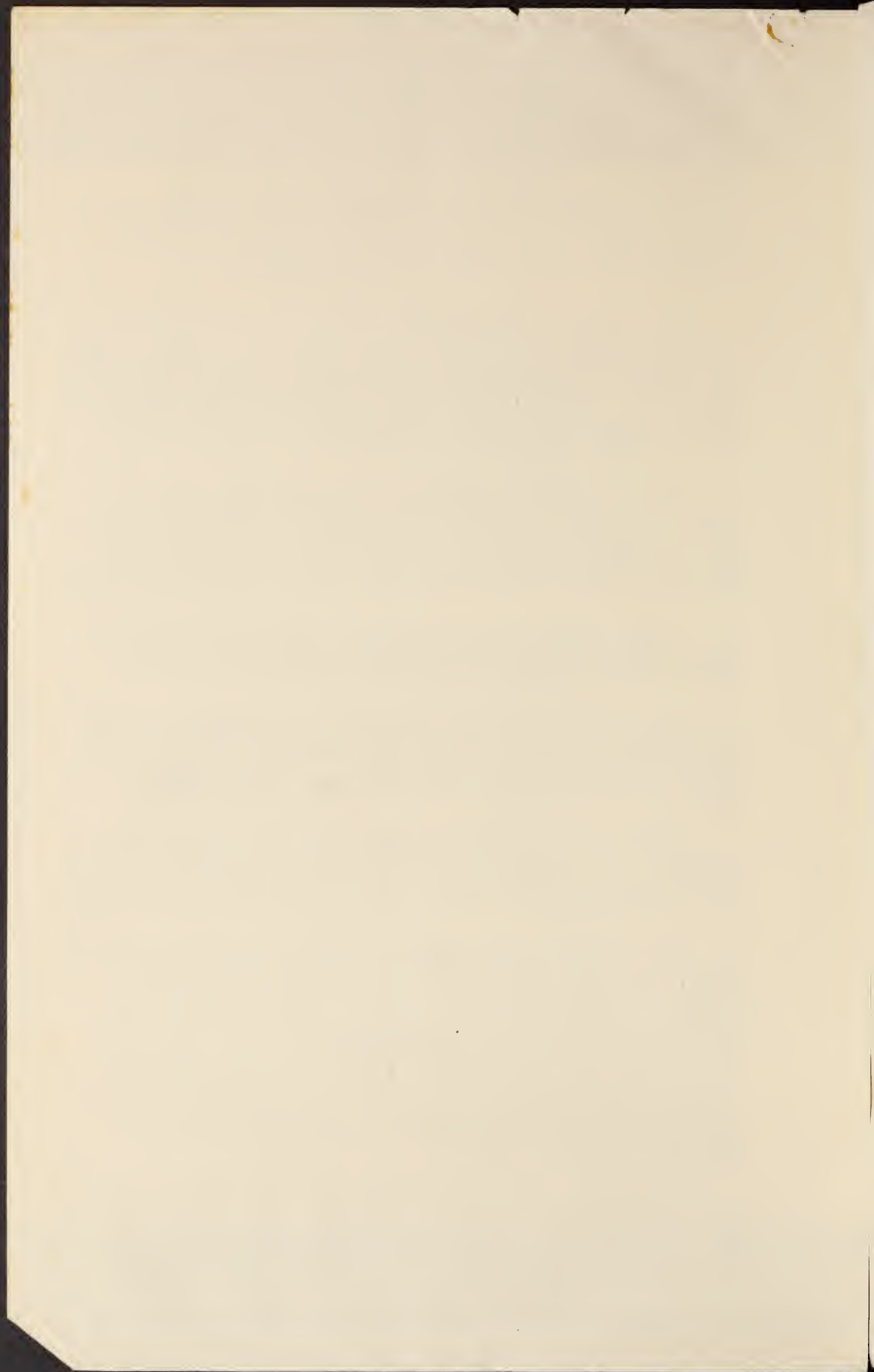
Of the Savages, those who remained loyal to the King were Capt. Savage with his son John Jr., the Captain's younger brother Edward Savage with his three sons, James, John and Peter; and another nephew Abraham Savage.

At the end of the Revolution as much bitterness was shown in Spencertown and Chatham, a town about four miles distant, as elsewhere. We find in the old records that on May 6, 1783, "The inhabitants voted to confiscate the property of the Tories (as the loyal British were termed) and not allow them residence in the district."

One day while ploughing in his field with oxen, some men including two of his brothers-in-law came to secure his signature to a declaration of Revolution. He flatly refused, and in consequence was called "rebel," his cattle seized and himself put in prison.

Mr. C. Thomas in his history of Shefford, page 13, gives a copy of the petition sent by Capt. Savage in 1792 to Alured Clark, Major General Commander in Chief of His Majesty's forces in Canada. Among other things he says of himself that he "took an early and active part in the late rebellion and served as lieutenant in a corps raised by Governor Tryon for His Majesty's service, being made prisoner by the rebels and refusing to join them, he was committed to Albany jail from whence he escaped and joined the army at New York, with which he served until taken a prisoner a second time and closely confined in irons in Kingston, N. Y. jail. He was very serviceable to the scouts sent out from this province by Governor Haldimand.

In part of a journal of Captain Savage's adventures during the Revolution, he states that in May 1775 he was chosen (by the rebels) to command a company in behalf of Congress and to sign a paper called the Association. He refused and was sent to Albany jail charged with being a Tory and drinking King George's health. After being committed to the fort he was released and obliged to give bonds for five hundred pounds.



Later he had between twenty and thirty able men with him, the most of them supported at his own expense, and these he was to hold in readiness to take either to New York or Canada. In October, 1776, he was captured by the rebels (Americans) and sentenced to be sent in irons to Semesbury Mines but on the way he was rescued by Lieut. Sharp who had raised a party of men for that purpose. From Great Barrington he set out for Canada with a party of twenty four men which he commanded.

It was necessary for him to change his course and he then went to Waterbury, Conn., and joined with Capt. Heycock. From there he went to New York city and was given command of a company under Col. Tenning.

Having been sent out with despatches for the British, he was taken prisoner by the rebels, his legs chained under a horse and driven in that condition to the Barracks at Fishkill, N.Y. (on two former occasions he had eluded his captors and afterwards they took extra precautions.)

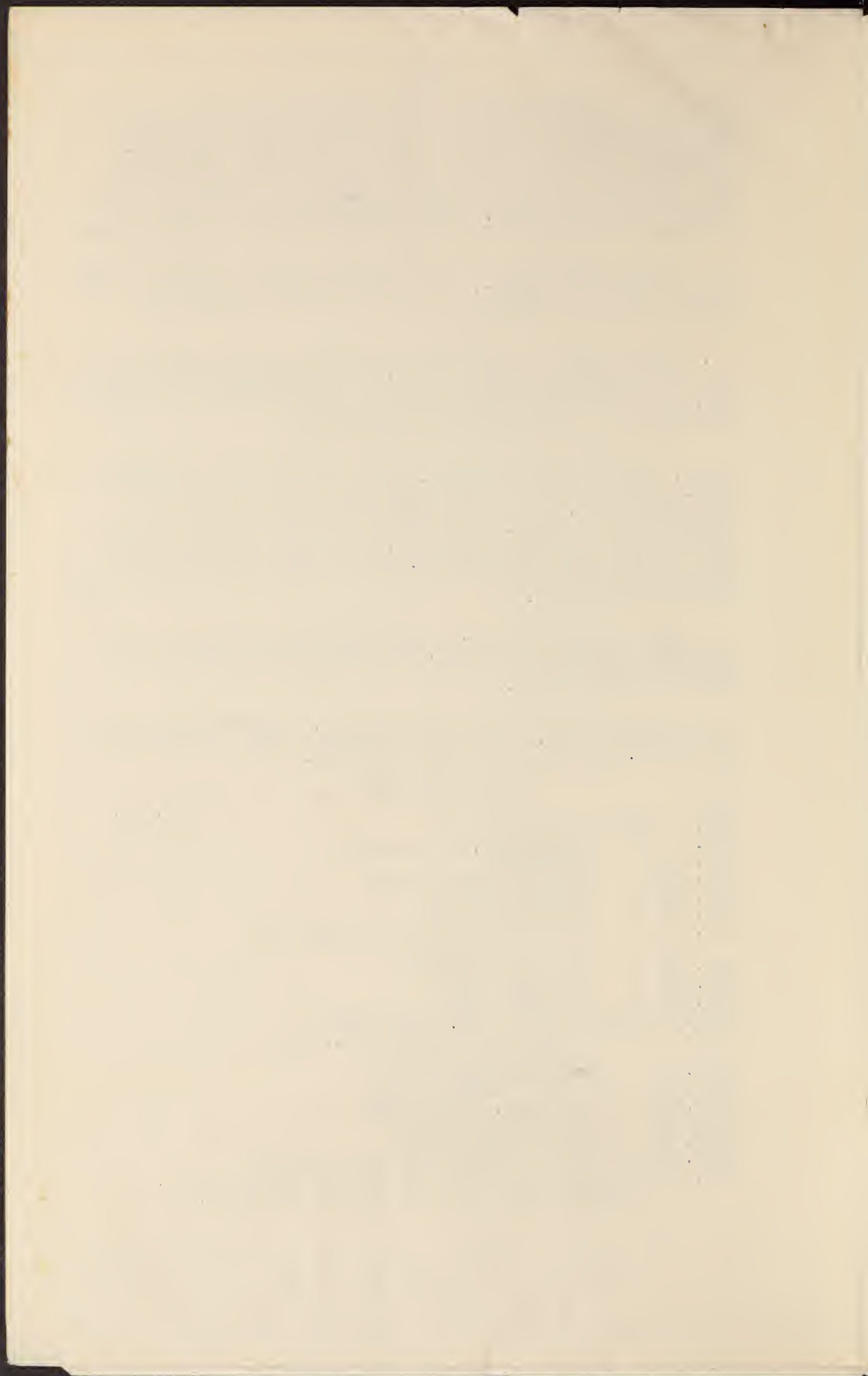
At Fishkill he was ironed hands and feet and kept two weeks. From there in January, 1777, he was sent to Kingston N. Y. jail and kept in irons hand and feet for ten months. From Kingston N. Y., he was sent to the jail in Hartford, Conn., still in irons. Managing to free one of his hands he knocked one of the sentries down, the other prisoners joined him and all made their escape. Before they reached their friends they were obliged to hide in a swamp and suffered every hardship imaginable.

Again taken prisoner, a rope was placed around his neck in order to hang him at once, but being a very witty man he made some remark which pleased his captors so much they put him in prison instead.

He spent in all four years in jail, supported entirely at his own expense. As soon as peace was made, he fled north with his family by way of Lake Champlain.

Bill of Expense

Date			£	s.	d.
Aug. 7	1782	At Lem Warner's		1	
Aug. 9	"	At Badcock, At Arlington	1	9	
Aug. 10	"	At Barret		8	
Aug. 12	"	Left Wherlock and got			
Aug. 13	"	To Castle Town		8	
Aug. 14	"	Left Castle Town			
Aug. 16	"	At Burlington down the east bay			
		5 miles		8	
Aug. 18	"	On Lake Champlain			
Aug. 19	"	At Saint Johns			
Aug. 20	"	At Saint Johns			
Sept. 16	1782	Set out from Saint Johns			
Sept. 17	"	Got to Dutchmans Point, got			
		19 miles that day			
Sept. 18	"	Left Dutchmans Point			
Sept. 19	"	Got to Potton Point			
Sept. 20	"	Got to D. Filo's farm			
Sept. 21	"	Got within 5 miles			
Sept. 22	"	Got to Castle Town			
Sept. 23	"	Got to Pollet and paid my account			
Oct. 21	1783	Set out from Crown Point with our cattle.			
		Parsons and Smith came through the woods.			



A passport from Sir Frederick Haldimand reads as follows;-

Frederick Haldimand

Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Quebec and Territories thereon depending etc., General and Commander and Chief of His Majesty's forces in said Province and the frontiers thereof etc., etc., etc.,

To all officers civil and Military whom it may concern-
Permit the Bearer hereof, Mr. John Savage and his brother Edward Savage, to pass from hence to Crown Point and to bring his family and effects to the Loyal Block House to stay without let or hindrance until further orders.....

This Passport to be in force until the purpose of it shall be accomplished.

Given at Quebec 22nd Aug. 1783,

Fred. Haldimand

By His Excellency's Command

R. Mathews.

Also a letter addressed to him at Dutchman's point from the Captain commanding the fort at Isle aux-Noix in the Richelieu River, dated Nov. 3, 1783, stating that, "by direction of the commander in chief, the commanding officers at Dutchman's Point are directed to give you any assistance you may want in bringing your cattle to this province." Captain Savage settled at Caldwell's Manor, not far from Clarenceville near Lake Champlain in 1784. Henry Caldwell of Belmont near Quebec, on September 2, 1784, appointed Captain Savage as his attorney at Caldwell's Manor to grant permission to people to settle there.

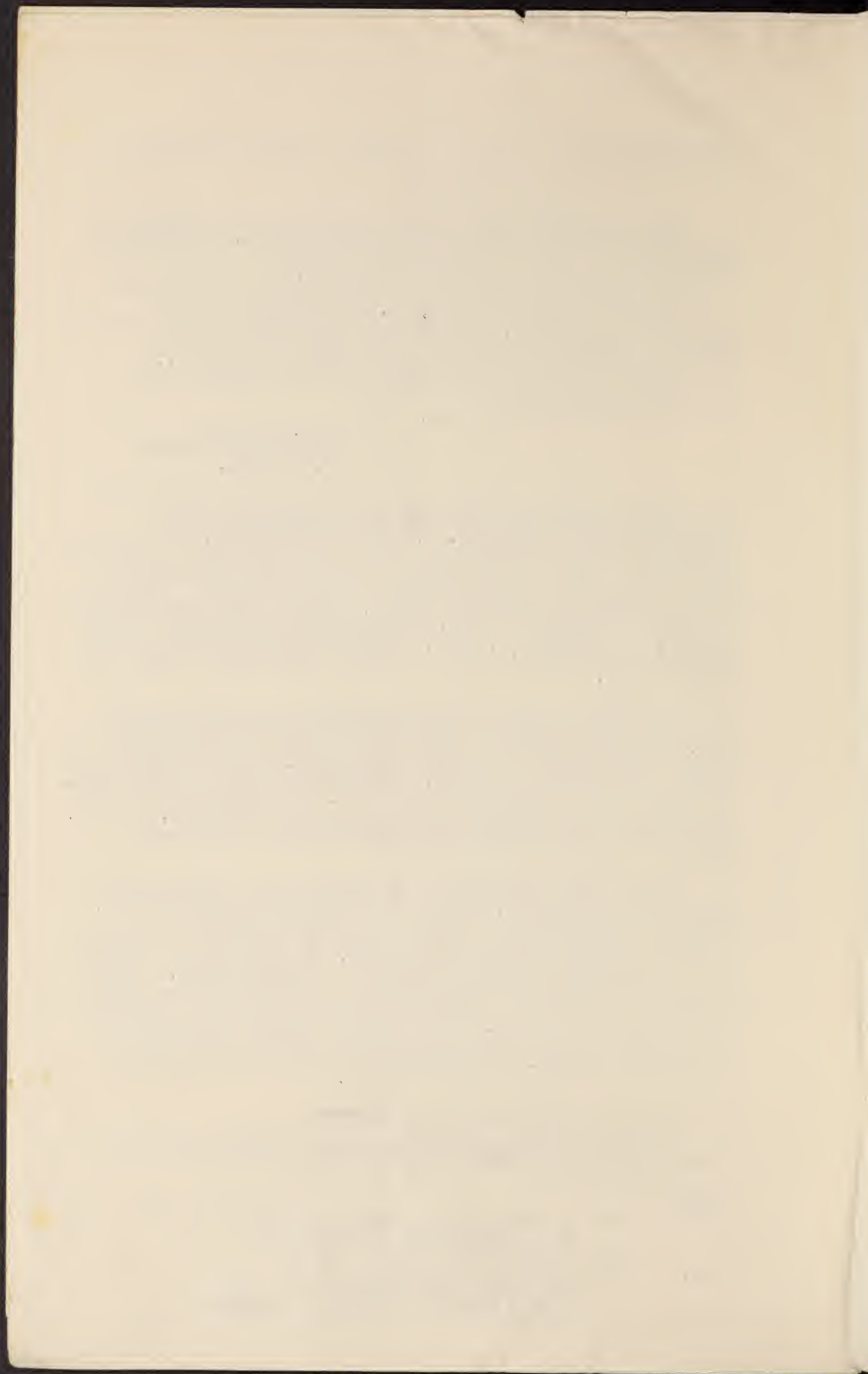
In 1792 that part of Caldwell's Manor on which Captain Savage's farm was situated was claimed by the Americans and Col. Allen attempted to remove him for refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the American States. On which account in 1792 he petitioned the Lieut. Governor of Canada, Alured Clark, to grant him the Township of Shefford. He obtained this the same year as appears by a Minute in Council dated Aug. 4, 1792. By it sixty-four thousand six hundred acres of land were granted to him and his associates.

Among other certificates accompanying his petition is one dated February 16, 1786, and signed by Col. David Pratt, Col. Asa Waterman and several other officers stating that "Captain Savage left his home and family in pursuit of means for the British Government's support. In all his prosecutions and confinements he was supported at his own expense. Those who were acquainted with the steps he took were not a little apprehensive that his undaunted conduct would be the occasion of his losing his life. This loyalty was manifested by his coming out of New York with recruiting orders to levy men for the King's service. The discovery of this brought on him almost every severity short of death.

Also the following bill of losses-

Account of losses sustained by John Savage during the late unhappy dissension in America Viz;

Dated			£	s	d
Feb. 7	1776	To cash paid to defray expense of a Continental Guard when a prisoner with them		6	
Aug.	1777	Expense in Fishkill Barracks and money taken from me		24	
		From Fishkill to Kingston jail	145		



From Kingston to Hartford to	£
Windsor and from thence to Norridge	146
For the loss of my crops in 1777	100
Thirty-six journeys to the Commissioners	31
New York Currancy	<u>£ 468</u>

In 1788 Captain Savage was appointed "Captain in the Militia of the Circle of St. Johns" by Commission signed by Lord Dorchester, Governor of Canada. A second commission dated 1805 signed by Sir Robert Shore Milnes appointed "John Savage Esq. Captain in the Township of Shefford of the 2nd Batt. of Militia of which Sir John John, Baronet, is Colonel."

In 1804 he received a Commission signed by Sir James Henry Craig appointing "Captain John Savage the first Justice of the Peace for the Trial of Causes in the Townships of Potton, Bolton, Granby, Shefford and Stukely."

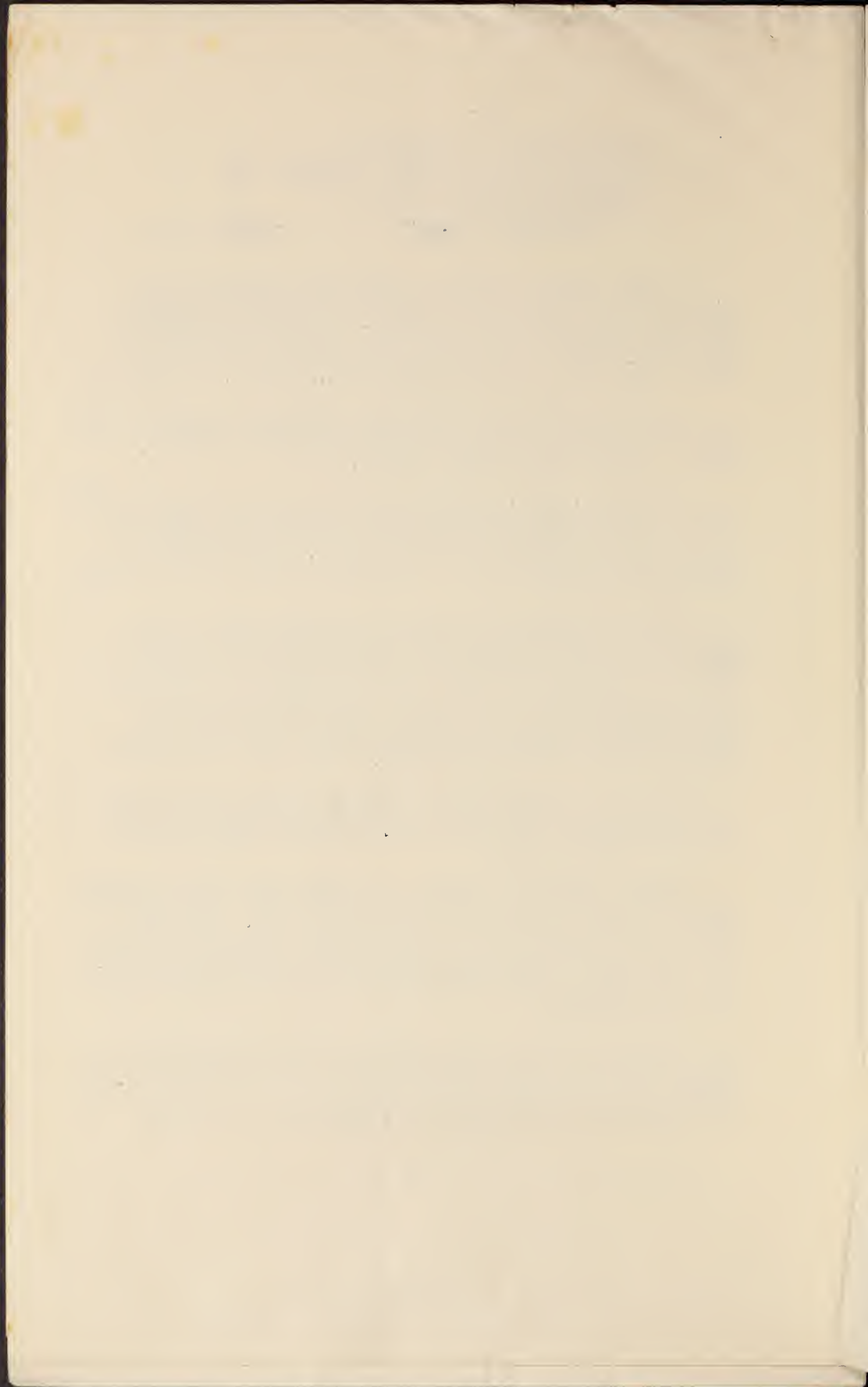
On March 8, 1824, when Captain Savage was eighty-four years of age a certificate was granted him signed by the Earl of Dalhousie testifying that "on account of age and infirmities and as a mark of regard for past conduct, permission was granted him to retire from the service with all the privileges attached thereunto."

Captain Savage held command of the 2nd. Batt. in the Frontier Light Infantry, which was formed of two companies drawn from the six Battalions of Township Militia. General Order 13 Aug. 1813 attached them to the Canadian Voltigeurs of which corps they became Nos. 9 and 10 Companies, by General Order 10th June 1814. This corps served from May 1813 to its disbandment March 24th 1815. Captain Savage with the other officers received the Prince Regent's Land grant for services during the war of 1812-15.

Beside the stream near the village of West Shefford may be seen a pile of stones that marks the spot where he built the "Dutch" back of his first cabin made of rough logs with a roof of hemlock bark.

Captain Savage was obliged to be away from home one night before the door was put up, and the family had only a blanket fastened over the doorway to keep out the cold. The bear endeavoured to enter and the only way Mrs Savage saved herself and family was by keeping a good fire and presenting a piece of burning wood to his nose when ever he tried to make his way in. Thus they watched all night and with the return of day the bear departed.

Captain Savage brought with him thrity head of cattle, but on account of the intense cold and lack of fodder all died except three. My great grandmother, Anna Savage Allen and her sisters cut down evergreens and endeavoured to save the cattle by feeding them the "browse" or foliage but of no avail.



Public Archives of Canada, Series S. Return of Original Settlers in 1800.
List of the first settlers in Shefford, together with date when they "went on the lot" assigned to the;

1792	Captain John Savage, the leader	1793	John Savage Jr.
1793	John Allen	1795	Hezekiah Wood
1799	John Griggs	1799	Richard Powers
1799	William Powers	1795	Richard Allen
1799	Peter Savage	1799	John E. Savage
1799	James Savage	1793	Ezekiel Lewis
1799	Thomas Wood	1797	Anthony Cutler
1795	Isaac Kinneson	1796	Solomon Kinneson
1798	Malcolm MacFarlane	1796	Peter Hayes
1796	Edward Graves	1799	Henry Powers
1796	Alexander Douglass	1797	Silas Lewis
1796	James Bell	1794	John Mock
1797	Timothy Hoskins	1796	William Moffit
1799	Stephen Steveborough	1794	Thaddeus Tuttle
1794	Isaac Lawrence	1794	Isaac Lawrence Jr.
1794	Elijah Lawrence	1795	James Berry
1794	Abraham Kinneson	1796	John Spaulding
1793	John Katzbock (Knatzback or Catchpaw)	1794	John Mock Jr.
		1794	Joseph Mock
		1795	John Bell
		1793	Elias Bell
1795	William Bell		
1795	Samuel Bell		

Oath of Allegiance required of the early settlers.

I, A. B. do sincerely promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George, and him will defend to the utmost of my power, against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against his Person, Crown and Dignity. And I will do my utmost endeavour to disclose and make known to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies and attempts which I shall know to be against him or any of them. And all this I do swear, without any equivocation mental evasion or secret reservation, and renouncing all pardons and dispensations from any power or person whomsoever to the contrary.
So help me God.

